

Attorney's Docket 076029-0303290

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
FREDERICO G JAEKEL ET AL.

Confirmation Number: 2479

Application No.: 10/777,208

Group Art Unit: 3611

Filed: February 13, 2004

Examiner: Lerner, Avraham H.

For: HITCH ASSEMBLY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith is an amendment/response for this application.

EXTENSION OF TIME

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant petitions for a 1 month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136.

FEES

The fee for claims and extension of time (37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17) has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	-	=	x \$	= \$
INDEP.	-	=	x \$	= \$
EXTENSION OF TIME FEE				\$ 120.00
GRAND TOTAL				\$ 120.00

FEE PAYMENT

Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of **\$120.00** to Deposit Account No. 033975. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Date: May 16, 2005
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
703 905.2114

B. L. Kiersz
BENJAMIN L. KIERSZ
Reg. No. 51875



Attorney Docket: 076029-0303290

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of: JAEKEL ET AL. Confirmation Number: 2479

AL.

Application No.: 10/777,208

Group Art Unit: 3611

Filed: February 13, 2004

Examiner: Lerner, Avraham H.

Title: HITCH ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2005, the due date for response to which is hereby extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time to May 16, 2005, Applicants elect invention I (Claims 1-16 and 35-47) and species C (FIG. 19). Claims 1-7, 17-24, and 35-47 read on FIG. 19. In combination, Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 35-47 read on the elected invention I and species C.

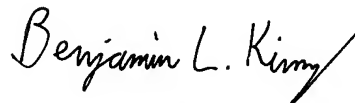
This election is made with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all of the species/inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species/invention would necessarily encompass a search for the remaining species/Invention. MPEP §803 states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden the Examiner must examine it under the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that the Election/Restriction should be withdrawn in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent and Trademark Office.

05/18/2005 HAL111 00000055 033975 10777200
01 FC:1251 120.00 DA

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election/Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin L. Kiersz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

BENJAMIN L. KIERSZ
Reg. No. 51875
Tel. No. 703 905.2114
Fax No. 703.905.2500

Date: May 16, 2005
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000